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## BEETLE TALK

Under this department, BEETLE TALK, we solicit your opinions, ideas, news, questions, answers, impressions, challenges, complaints, announcements, etc., or just about anything of an informal nature. Perhaps one of our readers has the answer to some of the questions now vexing you. Here, under BEETLE TALK, you can put those questions to quite a few coleopterists. We solicit your beetle talk.

It may be wondered whether the "Origin of Species" would have been written if Mr. Lawson had not existed. . . . Of course, Mr. Lawson's part in no way diminishes Darwin's achievement, for it was not so much the fact of geographical variation, as its interpretation, that required genius. Nevertheless, credit should be given, as Darwin gave it, to Mr. Lawson, who must have been a naturalist of perspicacity and accuracy. Herein lies the moral, for perhaps one of us will unknowingly provide, perhaps has already provided without knowing it, a key fact for the Darwin of the next generation.—David Lack, *American Scientist* 51:13, 1963.

The spread of education adds to the writer's burdens by multiplying that pestilent fellow the critical reader. No longer can we depend on an audience that will be satisfied with catching the general drift and obvious intention of a sentence and not trouble itself to pick holes in our wording; the words used must nowadays actually yield on scrutiny the desired sense; to plead that anyone could see what you meant, or so to write as to need that plea, is not now permissible—H. W. Fowler, *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage*, 1937, p. 256.